Bansapani-Daitari rail line

2839. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target dates fixed for completing the Bansapani-Daitari railway line from time to time have not been adhered to and the reasons therefor, date-wise;

(b) whether his Ministry is aware of the extent of losses to the Railways and to the Steel and Mining industries as a result of such shifting of dates and the quantum of such losses; and

(c) the firm date by which the line would be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Daitari-Bansapani new line project was taken up to serve the upcoming steel plants in the nearby areas and was progressing as per the availability of resources. However, considering the operational importance, this was identified as part of National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) and entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for its speedy implementation. Due to slow development of the anticipated steel plants compounded with construction challenges and resource crunch, the target date of completion of this project was extended a few times since 2004-05 and has now been commissioned for goods traffic on 15.02.2007. As regards losses mentioned, no such details are maintained.

Partnership with US for e-ticketing

2840. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has launched partnership with any US based companies to provide e-ticket facility to passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any public sector undertaking or Indian companies also bid for providing the same facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) has been authorised to provided e-ticketing facility to passengers.

Pending proposals for introduction of new trains

2841. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for introduction of new trains pending with his Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain proposals were made by the State Government of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details of those proposals;

(d) what is the criterion for introduction of new trains; and

(e) on what grounds the proposals received from the State of Rajasthan are not being accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Out of 55 pairs of trains announced in Railway Budget 2006-07, only 4 pairs of trains are left for introduction. Further, 45 pairs of new trains have been announced to be introduced during 2007-08.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received from Government of Rajasthan. However, some proposals have been received from people's representatives *inter alia* regarding introduction of trains.

(d) and (e) New train services are introduced subject to traffic justification, availability of resources, operational feasilbility etc. Introduction of new trains is an ongoing exercise over Indian Railways an new train services are gradually provided irrespective of geographical boundaries every year. 5 pairs of new trains services announced in Railway Budget 2007-08 will serve Rajasthan.

Construction of second platform on Sajanpur

2842. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a second platform has been constructed at Sajanpur railway